

Agenda item 20.8.13 (Highways):

Emails received:

16/7/20

To members of the Parish Council.

We hope this email finds all members and their families well and keeping safe at this time.

As we are not able to attend meetings in person at the moment we thought we would write to enquire with the council as to what the current situation is with the calming of the traffic within the village and the lorry watch proposal. The last meeting my wife and I attended was when the residents were invited to give their opinion as to what they felt was the best way forward and we were also asked if we would like to register our names to help take part in the lorry watch initiative. We appreciate lockdown has happened since then and things may not have progressed as we would all have liked. We would like to state however that since lockdown has started to lift the traffic is now worse than before, the speed and the volume has increased, and having spoken with some residents their concerns are also heightened.

In the opinion of the Parish Council is it possible to arrange a police speed watch in the heart of the village, we know that they occasionally sit down by the graveyard but we feel that something in the village may be more beneficial, a presence may be a deterrent in itself.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Responses to date:

16/7/20

Thank you for your email.

The issue of HGV traffic is a live one (and pressure is being put on Mid Suffolk DC) to, at least acknowledge the problem in the Local Mid Suffolk DC plan.

GUY MCGREGOR
HOXNE & EYE DIVISION

20/7/20

Thank you for your email.

I will add this as correspondence for the next full Council meeting.

The public consultation on highways matters has had to be put on hold following the COVID-19 lockdown and will continue as soon as possible once public gatherings are permitted.

Regards
Odile Wladon
Clerk
Stradbroke Parish Council

24/7/20

Thank you for the reply to our email.

Unfortunately the situation of speeding traffic in Stradbroke is not on 'hold' due to COVID-19 and as previously stated, it has got progressively worse.

Living in Church Street we see, on a daily basis, people having to jump back onto our drive to avoid cars lorries and farm vehicles that are speeding through the centre of the village. In addition the volume of lorries that now drive through the village has also increased.

We don't want a serious accident to occur before preventative measures are put in place. Only the other day our postman commented on the speed of cars and vans passing our house at that moment, clearly well in excess of 30 mph! This happens as we said on a daily basis, in fact all day every day and evenings also.

We are looking to the Parish Council to instigate some type of preventative measure that will slow traffic down now. We personally attended a meeting with the Parish Council shortly after we moved in, in 2016 with the then Chairman, and in our opinion nothing has changed or been put in place since. There have been meetings discussions and suggestions but nothing has actually been put in place that we are aware of, apart from the three speeding signs at the different points of entry to the village, and whilst this may give us data it really doesn't seem to prevent speeding traffic.

We have seen letters written in the Parish Council magazine by other residents of Stradbroke raising their concerns with the council regarding the traffic. This is clearly an opinion held by many residents.

You have seen the comments from Councillor Guy McGregor about the HGV situation in reply to his email to us, basically, nothing is happening! While we wait for the cogs of Suffolk County Council to very slowly turn, we must put in place an interim initiative to protect the people of Stradbroke.

The latest farcical event related to this issue took place on Sunday. The Ivy House pub 'hosted' a meeting of car enthusiasts. The owners of mostly sports cars and other, mainly high powered vehicles, met at The Ivy House. When this finished most of these cars, and there were many, then came out of the pub car park, in procession, lined up along New Street, before revving engines and setting off at speed towards Eye! We personally witnessed this take place along with other residents. I draw your attention to the Stradbroke Village website and the comments that have been made relating to this.

We are asking, as in our previous emails, to which we have received no answer?

- 1) Can the Parish Council arrange for a Police speed check at various points in the village.
- 2) We volunteered to help take part in the Lorry watch within the village, is this going to be started soon?
- 3) If either of the above are not attainable what do the Parish Council suggest to help resolve the issue of the speeding traffic.

Please note we fully understand how things have become more difficult for meetings to be held, but in response to the clerks email something really needs to be done as soon as possible, this is not a new problem. We do not need to wait to have a public meeting, we have already had this

more than once. Suffolk County Council has continued to work throughout the pandemic as have the Police, surely we can get some help from somewhere.

24/7/20

Thank you for your email.

I hope it encourages debate at the Parish Council Meeting.

I am willing to support (including financially) measures that protects the quality of Stradbroke.

Best wishes

GUY MCGREGOR
HOXNE & EYE DIVISION

Information regarding Lorry Watch and Lorry Routes:

Lorrywatch Trading Standards Mailbox

Wed 15/07/2020 17:56

To: Stradbrokepc@outlook.com

cc David Chenery

Hi Odile

Further to our discussions yesterday, Highways have checked and it doesn't appear that there are any weight restriction orders in your village. As mentioned we wouldn't be able to set up Lorry watch in this event. If you are interested in obtaining a weight restriction please contact Highways to discuss; <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/lorry-management/>. If a restriction is obtained in the future we would be happy at this point to consider lorry watch.

Best regards

Claire Fisher
Senior Trading Standards Officer

Suffolk Trading Standards
Landmark House
4 Egerton Road
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP1 5PF

Stradbroke Parish Council
Sat 18/07/2020 13:06
To: lorry.routes@suffolk.gov.uk

For some considerable time, Stradbroke Parish Council has received a number of complaints regarding increased HGV traffic movements in Stradbroke on both Queen Street and New Street/Church Street.

Queen Street forms part of the B1118 and New Street/Church Street become Laxfield Road all of which are part of the B1117.

The Suffolk Lorry Route identifies the B1118 as a "distributor zone" to the junction with the B1117 when the route becomes a "local access" route, both along the B1117 and the B1118 (Wilby Road).

The information required is:

1. Can you please explain exactly what the terms "distributor zone" and "local access" mean?
2. Can you inform the council of the measures which either are currently in place, or can be put in place, to ensure that HGV traffic does not use the routes in Stradbroke for anything other than local access?

Thank you.

Regards
Odile Wladon
Clerk
Stradbroke Parish Council
Mobile: 07555 066147
website: <https://www.stradbrokepc.org/>

Suffolk Lorry Route review
Thu 23/07/2020 13:57
To: Stradbrokepc@outlook.com

Dear Odile

The lorry routes map was designed to inform drivers which roads are most suitable for their vehicles and to try to minimise use of roads which may not be entirely suitable unless accessing a specific location.

In response to your questions, the map has a small key which denotes that *distributor routes (in blue)* – roads within a zone serving as a route directly to a location or as a route to local access routes (*green*) which are roads or parts of roads serving as access to a specific location. In other words, the blue routes are the roads that should be used to access the final destination of the journey. The term 'distributor zone' refers to the local area of the journey, I was not involved in the development of the original map and so hopefully this makes sense.

In terms of restricting access; unless there is a reason (environmental or structural usually) to limit access by introducing a traffic regulation order, the Council cannot stop vehicles using the highway network. If the Town Council wishes to pursue the introduction of such measures and there is a valid reason to do so, this should be raised with your County Councillor in the first instance. This would not stop vehicles using roads to access businesses and weight limits are only enforceable by Trading Standards through the lorry watch scheme or by the Police. The enforcement policy can be found here, page 16 [20191203-TS-Enforcement-policy.pdf](#) which outlines how and when Trading Standards will enforce breaches of weight limits.

If you haven't already found the pages, there is information on the Council website here <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/lorry-management/>

Kind regards
Sharon

Sharon Payne MTPS
Principal Transport Planner, Transport Strategy
Growth, Highways and Infrastructure
Suffolk County Council

All HGV issues and concerns should be reported to the Parish Council **and** SCC where a record is kept. The more individual complaints which are logged the more evidence is gathered of a problem in Stradbroke. The webpage to report issues is: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/lorry-management/report-a-heavy-goodsvehicle-incident/>